



## Gaithersburg

A CHARACTER COUNTS!

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

Multicultural Affairs Committee

March 8, 2012

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**Attendees:** Cathy Drzyzgula, Samira Hussein, Washington Nsangou, Beatrice Weiss, Ken Weiss, Nansie Wilde  
**Absences:** Keith Colston, Monica Granados (regrets), Lingling He, Charlemagne Orisme (regrets), Patricia Rogers

The meeting was called to order at: 7:05 p.m.

**I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:**

**A. Review of Minutes**

1. A quorum was not present, so the minutes were not approved.

**B. Old Business**

1. **African American History Month:** A nice evening was enjoyed by about 100 people. Suggestions for next year include passing out the words to the Black National Anthem or singing fewer verses.
2. **Arab American Heritage Month Celebration:** This year it will be a reception and receiving of the proclamation similar to African American Month. Samira Hussein is working on caterer. The theme will be *Caring & Advocacy - Arab Americans Making a Difference*. Samira Hussein will provide the information for posters on the people she would like recognized.
3. **Attendance and new member recruiting:** The committee members will continue with recruiting efforts for new members. Cathy Drzyzgula reached out to the Asian community through her contacts and suggested that Community Services might have other contacts such as with the Korean Cultural Center.
4. **Committee Leadership:** Decisions on leadership and chair(s) will be kept on hold until the committee builds new membership.

**C. New Business**

1. **Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration:** The committee members present decided that this event would be laid down for this year as no one was able to commit to plan and organize it. At the June meeting, the committee will consider the calendar for FY13 and decide what events the committee will host.
2. **New Ideas:** Samira Hussein suggested that the committee look at holding events in local restaurants with people paying to attend. Maybe it could be set up as a Multicultural Dinning Club hosted by the Multicultural Affairs Committee. There is concern about how restaurants would be picked to be fair to all restaurants in Gaithersburg. Washington Nsangou asked about an African Month as an additional activity, and not as part of the African American celebration.
3. **Of Interest to Committee Members:** Samira Hussein shared her concern about the Sister City program which is considering pairing Montgomery County with Beit Shemesh in Israel. Samira Hussein asks any member who feels able to write to County Executive Ike Legget and county council members expressing concern.

**II. NEXT MEETING: June 14, 7 p.m. – Casey Community Center 810 S. Frederick Ave.**

**II. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nansie Wilde